

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 07004 061222Z

53

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 ACDA-19

EB-11 COME-00 INT-08 SCEM-02 TRSE-00 OMB-01 DRC-01

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O R 061115Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9690

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN NY

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 7004

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR XF IS US

SUBJ: ISRAELI REACTION TO PRESIDENT NIXON'S REMARKS ON MIDDLE EAST

1. GOI HAS SO FAR REFUSED TO COMMENT ON PRESIDENT'S SEPT 5
PRESS CONFERENCE ON GOUNDS IT AWAITING FULL TEXT. (EMBASSY
FURNISHED FULL TEXT TO MFA EARLY SEPT 6.)

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PAGE 02 TEL AV 07004 061222Z

2. ALL MORNING PAPERS SEPT 6 FEATURE WIRE SERVICE REPORTS OF PRESS CONFERENCE WITHOUT COMMENT. AFTERNOON PRESS CONTAINS FOLLOWING COMMENTS.

3. ACCORDING TO WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT (SEGEV) OF MAARIV, PRESIDENT REJECTED NOTION OF SACRIFICING FREINDSHIP WITH ISRAEL FOR OIL, BUT HE ALSO SIGNALLED TO ISRAEL THAT "US" WILL NO LONGER TOLERATE MIDDLE EAST DEADLOCK." IT IS FIRST TIME PRESIDENT BLAMES BOTH SIDES FOR DEADLOCK. UNTIL NOW, ISRAEL THOUGHT US AGREED THAT BEST APPROACH WOULD BE THAT OF PARTIAL SETTLEMENT TO BE ACHIEVED THROUGH FREE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN PARTIES, AND THAT WHILE ISRAEL WAS READY TO START SUCH NEGOTIATIONS, EBYPT'S INSISTENCE ON ADVNACE ISRAELI COMMITMENT ON EVENTUAL TOTAL WITHDRAWAL, WHCIH US NOT SEEKING FROM ISRAEL, WAS CAUSE OF DEADLOCK. IN OTHER WORDS, US HAD LEFT IT TO EGYPT TO DECIDE WHEHTER IT WANTED US TP PLAY ROLE IN PROMOTING MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT.

4. MAARIV CONTINUES THAT, BY ASSIGNING EQUAL BLAME TO BOTH SIDES, PRESIDENT IS HINTING TO ARABS THAT WASHINGTON WILL USE ITS INFLUENCE TO TRY TO PRESUADE MEIR GOVERNMENT TO BE MORE FLEXIBLE IN EFFORTS TO FIND NEW APPROACHES. AT SAME TIME, PRESIDENT EVIDENTLY CONTINUES TO RULE OUT IMPOSED SETTLEMENT ON NOTION THAT ALL CONCESSIONS MUST COME FROM ISRAELI SIDE, AND THIS, ADDED TO FACT US HAS MADE NEW ARMS DEAL WITH ISRAEL, SHOWS THAT PRESIDENT BELIEVES ONLY A STRONG ISRAEL CAN NEGOTIATE COMPROMISE SETTLEMENT.

5. NEW ELEMENT OF UNCERTAINTY HAS BEEN INTRODUCED, MAARIV SAYS, BY PRESIDENT'S CONCERN OVER OIL. SAUDI ARABIA IS BECOMING MAIN ELEMENT IN US OIL DIPLOMACY. SAUDI MESSAGE IS: US CAN GAIN INFLUENCE IN EGYPT BY ADOPTING MORE BALANCED MIDDLE EAST POSTURE AND CAN LOSE BOTH EGYPT AND SAUDI ARABIA BY NOT DOING SO. BY IMPLICATION, PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT IS IDENTICAL TO SISCO'S RECENT MAARIV INTERVIEW: ISRAEL IN DECIDING ON ITS POLICIES HAD BETTER TAKE INTO ACCOUNT US INTERESTS.

6. YEDIOT AHARONOT (GUINEY) SAYS THAT PRESIDENT'S REMARKS GIVE MORE GROUNDS FOR CONCERN THWN SATISFACTION: HE HAS ADMITTED THAT ARABS, OIL, AND ISRAEL ARE LINKED--MEANING THAT ISAREL MAY FACE NEW US INITIATIVE EARLIER THAN HAD BEEN EXPECTED.

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PAGE 03 TEL AV 07004 061222Z

ALTHOUGH HE GAVE NO HINT OF IMPOSED SOLUTION, IT CLEAR THAT OIL CRISIS MAKES IT HARDER TO MAINTAIN STATUS QUO UNTIL ARABS READY TO NEGOTIATE IN WAY ISRAEL WANTS.

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